

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB2004/050294

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01L21/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H01L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, WPI Data, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 5 692 070 A (KOBAYASHI KATSUYOSHI) 25 November 1997 (1997-11-25) column 4, line 38 -column 5, line 37 column 12, line 8 - line 36 abstract; figures 5A-5D,6,13A column 7 -column 8 ---- | 1-6 |
| X | US 3 671 748 A (FRIEDMAN DAVID) 20 June 1972 (1972-06-20) abstract; figures 1B,2-4,7 claims 11-18 ---- | 1-6 |
| X | WO 01/98761 A (KLA TENCOR) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) abstract; claims 1-12 page 14 -page 16; figures 2-6 ---- | 5,6 |
| A | ----- -/- | 1-4 |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 June 2004

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06/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Paisdor, B

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
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| A | <p>PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 01, 14 January 2003 (2003-01-14) -& JP 2002 280288 A (NIKON CORP), 27 September 2002 (2002-09-27) abstract; figures -----</p> | 1-6 |

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Information on patent family members

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